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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/996,579	11/30/2001	Mitsuhiro Kurcishi	Q67531	3787

7590 12/12/2003
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC
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EXAMINER

VERSTEEG, STEVEN H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1753

DATE MAILED: 12/12/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/996,579

Applicant(s)

KUREISHI ET AL.

Examiner

Steven H VerSteeg

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time ~~are~~ ^{are not} available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- ~~Failure to reply within the shortened period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 139).~~
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 November 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed ~~in accordance with the practice under 37 CFR 1.212, 1.213, 1.214, and 1.215.~~

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5 and 6 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 and 7-9 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 30 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 5 and 6 to an invention non-elected with traverse in the paper filed November 5, 2003. Applicant is given ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the date of this letter, whichever is longer, to cancel the noted claims or take other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144). Failure to take action during this period will be treated as authorization to cancel the noted claims by Examiner's Amendment and pass the case to issue. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) will not be permitted since this application will be passed to issue.

The prosecution of this case is closed except for consideration of the above matter.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4 and 7-9 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: it is neither anticipated nor obvious over the prior art of record to have a method of manufacturing a photo mask blank by forming an opaque film or a semi-transmission film on a transparent substrate as claimed by Applicant in claim 1 comprising irradiating the substrate with an ion generated by an ion generator separately disposed in a film formation chamber during the deposition by a sputtering method.

4. It is also neither anticipated nor obvious over the prior art of record to have a method of reducing a stress of a film formed on a substrate as claimed by Applicant in claim 7 comprising irradiating, onto the substrate during the depositing of the film, an ion generated by an ion generator to relax the stress in the film.

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5. US 2002/0197509 A1 to Carcia et al. (Carcia) discloses Applicant's claimed invention, but Applicant's priority date beats Carcia, and Applicant has provided a verified translation of the priority document that discloses the limitations of claims 1 and 7 of the instant application. Therefore, Applicant's invention is neither anticipated nor obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

General Information

For general status inquiries on applications not having received a first action on the merits, please contact the Technology Center 1700 receptionist at (703) 308-0661.

For inquiries involving Recovery of lost papers & cases, sending out missing papers, resetting shortened statutory periods, or for restarting the shortened statutory period for response, please contact Palestine Jenkins at (703) 308-3521.

For general inquiries such as fees, hours of operation, and employee location, please contact the Technology Center 1700 receptionist at (703) 308-0661.

Special Notice Regarding PTO Relocation to Alexandria, Virginia

During December 2003, the USPTO will begin its relocation to the Carlyle facility in Alexandria, Virginia. I am scheduled to move at some point in December 2003. At that time, my phone number will change. My new phone number will be (571) 272-1348. If you need to speak with me during December 2003, I recommend first calling my old area code 703 phone

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number. If that number has been disconnected, then try the new area code 571 phone number.

Beginning January 2003, please discontinue use of the area code 703 phone number.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven H VerSteeg whose telephone number is (703) 305-4473.

The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thurs (7:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nam X Nguyen can be reached on (703) 308-3322. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.


Steven H VerSteeg
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1753

shv
December 9, 2003